



Message from Councilman Tom Owen

I have been startled in recent months by the dramatic increase in bicyclists throughout the Highlands. I'd guess the increase is driven by a combination of folks desiring cheaper travel, cleaner air, and needed exercise.

As a daily bike/bus commuter, I'd like to offer a few suggestions that might make our changed world safer for both bicyclists and motorists. I expect some readers will have contrary notions or additional thoughts that should be addressed to me at tom.owen@louisvilleky.gov

Here goes:

1. Motorists should presume that they will encounter bicycles on the roadway every time they make a trip.
2. Motorists when making a left turn should assume there are cars and bicycles in the traffic approaching them. For those of us that pedal, the scenario of being t-boned by a car making a left-turn in front of us is most frightening!
3. Bicyclists in traffic stopped at a signal should stay in line with the autos rather than pressing toward the front and trying to rapidly get out in front of the cars when the light changes.
4. On densely commercial Bardstown Road when cars are parked in the curb lane, motorists should accept bicycles in the driving lane. Even though the traffic flow will be slowed, it simply isn't safe to expect the bicyclist to hug close to the parked cars where an opened door or protruding mirror can knock you into the driving lane. When there is a wide opening at the curb lane, the cyclist should get to the right and wave the cars around.
5. Bicyclists must not make abrupt turns across traffic or drive in any direction except WITH traffic.
6. Adult bicyclists except for rare exceptions should always ride in the street. On those rare occasions, the bicyclist should understand the sidewalk belongs to the

- pedestrian so act like it!!!! Children, aged, disabled, and the unsuspecting can be mowed down by a speeding goof-ball sidewalk cyclist.
7. Bicyclists should STOP at all red lights and barely roll-through stop signs once it is determined there is no approaching traffic on the cross-street.
 8. Bicyclists should wear a helmet and reflective clothing at all times and equip their bike with safety lights.
 9. We need more bike racks on the Baxter-Bardstown commercial corridor.
Bicyclists are reduced to locking on to virtually any fixed object!
 10. Bicyclists should signal their every move on the roadway and motorists should watch for cyclists on their right rear when they prepare to make a right-hand turn.